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1995/04/18

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Printed: 07/18/1997 DOC_NUMBER: 95BEIJIN11406 CHANNEL: n/a
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PTQ5281

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ5281

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ACTION EAP-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 ACDE-00 AID-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 OASY-00
DODE-00 DOEE-00 DS-00 EB-01 FBIE-00 H-01 TEDE-00
INR-00 IO-10 LAB-01 L-01 ADS-00 M-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-00 PRS-01 P-01
SCT-00 SP-00 SR-00 SS-00 STR-01 TRSE-00 T-00
USIE-00 SA-01 PMB-00 DSCC-00 PRME-01 DRL-09 G-00
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R 180230Z APR 95
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9818
INFO AMCONSUL SHENYANG
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU
AMCONSUL CHENGDU

CONFIDENTIAL BEIJING 011406

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, CH, US
SUBJECT: SURVEILLANCE ON DISSIDENTS UP A NOTCH; U.S.
BLAMED FOR SUPPORTING ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITY

REF: (A) BEIJING 10194, (B) BEIJING 11024

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE IM/TPS/CR/IR Date 27 Jul 97
() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
() EXTEND () DECLASSIFY EO Classifications
() DENY () IN FACT

FOIA Exemptions (B)(1) () CLASSIFY as () S or () Sec.
() DOWNGRADE TS () S or () C

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2. SUMMARY: WHILE THE LEVEL OF SECURITY REMAINS WELL BELOW THAT OF LAST YEAR, AUTHORITIES APPEAR TO BE STEPPING UP SURVEILLANCE ON "SUSPECT ELEMENTS" AS THE SENSITIVE APRIL-JUNE ANNIVERSARY PERIOD PROGRESSES. SEPARATELY, PROPAGANDA AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY CHARGE THE UNITED STATES WITH CHANGING TACTICS IN SUPPORT OF DISSIDENTS, CLAIMING THE UNITED STATES NOW FOCUSES ON DISSEMINATING DISSIDENT VIEWS AND ON ENCOURAGING DISSIDENT EFFORTS TO ATTACK THE REGIME FROM WITHIN. END SUMMARY.

LOW-KEY WARNINGS ISSUED TO INTELLECTUALS

3. SEVERAL EMBASSY CONTACTS HAVE TOLD US THEY HAVE RECENTLY COME UNDER TIGHTER SURVEILLANCE, WHICH THEY REGARD AS "DEFENSIVE" (DESIGNED TO PASSIVELY MONITOR ACTIVITY) RATHER THAN "AGGRESSIVE" (DESIGNED TO HARASS AND DISRUPT ACTIVITY).

(PROTECT), BELIEVES THAT THE WARNING TO "WATCH HIS STEP" GIVEN HIM BY A "WELL-MEANING FRIEND" WAS AN EFFORT TO ALERT HIM THAT AUTHORITIES HAD ENHANCED SECURITY DURING THE SENSITIVE APRIL-JUNE "ANNIVERSARY PERIOD" (REP A).

4. ANOTHER SUCH SUBJECT, [REDACTED]

DISSENT IN CHINA -- AN AMERICAN HAND?

5. WHILE NEITHER CONTACT ASCRIBED SURVEILLANCE TO FRIENDSHIPS WITH US, SEVERAL SOURCES HAVE RECENTLY MENTIONED TO US THAT THE UNITED STATES IS GETTING SPECIAL MENTION IN INTERNAL CIRCULATION DOCUMENTS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WHO ENJOYS DEMONSTRATED ACCESS TO SOME INTERESTING PEOPLE IN THE SECURITY SERVICES, TOLD US THAT IN MARCH THE PROPAGANDA DEPARTMENT ISSUED A CLASSIFIED NOTICE TO MEDIA AND PROPAGANDA UNITS OUTLINING A NEW COVERT U.S. STRATEGY AGAINST CHINA. UNITS WERE TOLD THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS NO LONGER INTENT ON STIRRING DISSIDENTS TO ORGANIZE ANTI-REGIME ACTION, BUT RATHER WAS NOW ATTEMPTING -- WITH MONEY AND SUPPORT -- TO (A) ENCOURAGE DISSIDENTS TO RECORD AND WIDELY DISSEMINATE THEIR VIEWS, AND (B) ENTER BUSINESS, SEEK INFLUENCE, AND ATTACK THE SYSTEM FROM WITHIN.

COMMENT

6. WE CONTINUE TO SEE A LESS TENSE OFFICIAL APPROACH TO THE "ANNIVERSARY SEASON" THAN IN 1994 VIS-A-VIS DISSIDENTS AND INTELLECTUALS. THIS PROBABLY REFLECTS LESSENERED REGIME CONCERN OVER ORGANIZED DISSIDENT [REDACTED]

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ACTIVITY. MORE TROUBLING IS THE FOCUS ON AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR ANTI-REGIME EFFORTS. USG FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ANTI-REGIME DISSIDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES ALMOST CERTAINLY SERVES AS THE BASIS OF THIS PROPAGANDA LINE. THIS LINE ALSO TRACKS WITH BOTH PUBLIC AND CLASSIFIED STATEMENTS BLAMING THE WEST, AND THE UNITED STATES IN PARTICULAR, WITH ANTI-REGIME SUPPORT FOR ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS SEPARATISTS (REP B). SUCH ARGUMENTS SERVE REGIME INTERESTS BY EXPLAINING HOME-GROWN DISSENT IN TERMS OF "FOREIGN HOSTILE FORCES," AND BY UNDERPINNING THE LEADERSHIP'S CLAIM THAT THE UNITED STATES (A) FEARS CHINA, (B) WISHES TO "WESTERNIZE" CHINA, AND (C) IS WORKING ACTIVELY TO KEEP CHINA WEAK. SILVER

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ate Printed: 07/18/1997

DOC_NUMBER: 95BEIJIN11406

CHANNEL: n/a

ileName : .../t950484/aaaaiclr.t31

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** [REDACTED]